



6-2011

CIIS Alumni Newsletter

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**CIIS Alumni Newsletter
June 2011**

Letter from the Dean of Alumni

Dear Alums,

Another academic year has ended with the annual commencement ceremony, held May 22, 2011 at the Palace of Fine Arts. Alum **Stephen Sabin** (PsyD '06) welcomed 355 new graduates to the Alumni Association, and **Joseh Garcia** (EWP '11) provided uplifting music for the benediction. CIIS recognized honorary doctorate recipients **Elizabeth J. McCormack** and **Lisa Stone Pritzker** for their important role in philanthropic service.



I would like to thank all of you who participated in the 2001 alumni survey. Your responses have provided us with helpful direction in building an ever stronger alumni community. We had a terrific response rate of 19%. You can view the [survey results](#) online.

Richard Bugap (CLN, '96)



On April 9, 2011, **Maureen Kellen-Taylor** (TLR '99) hosted Southern California alums at the Burbank Senior Artist Colony for an afternoon of conversation on "The Art of Spirited Aging."

Joan Koerper (IND '04),
Katrina Corbell
(BIS '10) and Maureen Kellen-
Taylor (TLR '99)



Susan Cannon (TLM '00) hosted Seattle alums on April 16 at the Integral Loft. Susan presented findings from her work with women in transformative leadership programs, followed by a stimulating discussion.

ALUMNI EVENTS

Use your alumni discount benefit on the purchase of apparel, rental cars, jewelry, event tickets, and more at <http://workingadvantage.com>. The CIIS alumni discount code is #141007526.

CLASS NOTES

The new book by **Shefali Tsabary** (PDT '97), *The Conscious Parent: Transforming Ourselves, Empowering Our Children*, has received the Nautilus Gold Award in the category of parenting/family. The book includes a preface by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Mirka Knaster (ACS '03) held a book signing at CIIS on April 29 for her book *Living This Life Fully: Stories and Teachings of Munindra* (Shambhala).

Ron Pevny (ICP '78) is founder and director of the Center for Conscious Eldering, based in Durango, Colorado. His long history as a guide of wilderness rites of passage for individuals and organizations in transition began shortly after his CIIS days. His current focus is on offering Choosing Conscious Elderhood retreats, pilgrimages to meet indigenous elders, and coaching for conscious elderhood. He has authored several articles on conscious eldering, which can be found on his organization's website. He has been married to **Barbara Donica Pevny** (ICP '79) for thirty-three years.

Jill Mueller Eikman (PDT '05) and **Christina Shonkwiler** (PDT '10) are part of a new improvisational theater group, Resident Company. They

Susan Cannon (TLM '00),
Derek Trlica (ICP '03) and
Rebecca McKinney Trlica (ICP
'03)



Noah Levine (BAC '00, ICP '04) presented a lecture on April 29 on "The Heart of Buddha," focusing on cultivation of the heart's natural qualities of wisdom and compassion. The well attended event was a benefit for the CIIS Alumni Scholarship Fund.

Noah Levine (BAC '00; ICP '04)

Nora Archambeau (EWP '97) gathered Sonoma County alums on May 19 at Cellars of Sonoma in Santa Rosa. Nora led a lively discussion on how alums can collaborate in work, play, and spirit.



Tricia Grame (WSE '01) and
Marguerite Rigoglioso (WSE
'01; IND '07)

On May 19, alums also gathered at CIIS to pay tribute to **Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum** on the occasion of her retirement. **Mary Beth Moser** created an engaging slideshow of many of Lucia's tours of Italy.

performed on April 30, 2011.

Naomi Schulz (BAC '05) has been accepted to the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California.

Alums **Hillary Anderson** (PSY '74) and **Ana Perez-Chisti** (PAR '99) hosted "Chakra System Revisited: An Integral Approach" on June 4, 2011 in Orinda, California.

To send a class note, please email Richard Buggs at rbuggs@ciis.edu (CLN '96). If you include a photo, please send a high resolution image.

Fundraising for Robert McDermott Reading Area in Library Completed

The fundraising for the **Robert McDermott Reading Area** in the new library has been completed, with a total of \$100,000 raised for the project. These funds are part of the \$636,000 raised to date and bring us closer to the total amount of \$850,000 needed for library relocation and renovation costs. To make a gift to support the library project, please contact Director of Development Dorotea Reyna at dreyna@ciis.edu or 415.575.6135 .

Fundraiser for the Alumni Scholarship Fund



Don Hanlon Johnson, founder of the CIIS Somatic Psychology program; and **Michael Murphy**, cofounder of Esalen Institute, will appear in conversation on "The Future of the Body" on Thursday, June 16, 2011 from 7:00PM to 9:00PM at CIIS Main Building in Namaste Hall.

\$10 donation benefits the CIIS Alumni Scholarship Fund.
[RSVP online.](#)

Upcoming Alumni Activities



Connie Hills (CLN '98, pictured at left) will co-teach with **Daijaku Judith Kinst** (ICP '96) at Tassajara Zen Mountain Center this summer: The course is entitled "High Diving: Zen and Theravadan gifts for Psychotherapists and Other Compassion Providers."

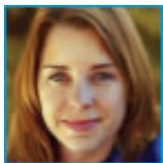
CEUs are available for MFTs and LCSWs.

Bonnie Tomek (BIS '06) has launched her new website! Please visit www.zenbuns.com for weekly "zen buns" wisdom and cool stuff for practically everyone.



Valerie Tate (EXA '04) is co-teaching a threeday workshop entitled "Psychic Tools Retreat" at the Kalani Oceanside Retreat Village on the Big Island of Hawaii from June 16 -19, 2011. For more information contact Valerie at valtate@comcast.net or 415.601.9038 .

Robert Navarra (CLN '02) will be hosting a Gottman Couples Workshop on July 9 and 10, 2011, in Menlo Park, California. For more information, go to <http://drbobn.net>.



Cassandra Vieten (CLN '99) invites alums to participate in her upcoming workshop. From June 20 to 26, 2011, she hosts a Mindful Motherhood Retreat at Ghost Ranch; Abiqui, New Mexico.

Susmita (Das) Shah (ACS '01, ICP '04) has a San Francisco support group for therapists. For more information, contact Susmita at susmitashah.mft@gmail.com.



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